GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7280
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
SIMPLIFICATION OF PASSPORT ISSUING PROCEDURE
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has finalised expediting the passport issuing process:

(b) whether in various cities including Mumbai the applicants are not able to get passport in 3-4 months;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the action proposed thereon;

(e) whether in the Affidavit Form `G` an educated/literate person studied upto 9th standard has to put his thumb impression on the passport form;

(f) whether he has to declare himself illiterate in the passport form;

(g) whether a person has to pass minimum SSC to qualify himself as literate for this formality;

(h) if so, the norms, rules and regulations laid down in this regard;

(i) whether the Government propose to do away with this formality and will treat a person as literate if he has studied up to 8th/9th standard;

(j) if so, the details thereof; and

(k) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Government has recently exempted some categories of passport applicants from police verification and has also launched a scheme of machine writing of passports to expedite the passport issue process.

(b & c) The passports are normally issued within ten days after a clear police verification report is received and all the other documents are in order. The time taken in issue of passports, therefore, varies for different Passport Offices depending on the time in which the police verification report is received. In Mumbai, about 60% of the police reports are received within 30-35 days and these passports are issued in about 45 days.

(d) Government has launched a scheme of decentralisation of acceptance of passport applications at the District level. This is expected to reduce the time taken in police verification.

(e) Annexure-F of the passport application form gives the specimen affidavit to be submitted by illiterate applicants as proof of date of birth in case the birth certificate is not available. As normally Class X School Leaving Certificate in most States carries the date of birth of the applicant, it is accepted as the proof of date of birth. There is no requirement for the applicant to place his thumb impression on the present passport form.

(f, g, h, i, j and k) There is no entry in the passport form requiring the applicant to declare himself literate or illiterate. However, there is a column for declaring the educational qualifications as a graduate is automatically entitled for the grant of `Emigration Check Not Required` stamp on the passport.